

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: SECURITY FOR BOLSHOI THEATER AND SCYTHIAN EXHIBIT
IN US

REF: MOSCOW 4467

1. DEPARTMENT (ARMITAGE) SENT LETTER TO SOVIET EMBASSY
APRIL 7 IN REPLY TO CHARGE VORONTSOV LETTER OF MARCH 18
REQUESTING ASSURANCES REGARDING SECURITY FOR BOLSHOI BALLET
AND OPERA AND FOR SCYTHIAN EXHIBIT AT METROPOLITAN MUSEUM
OF NEW YORK. LETTER INFORMS VORONTSOV THAT DEPARTMENT IS
TAKING AND WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS CONSISTENT WITH
RELEVANT US LAWS AND PRACTICES TO ENSURE SAFETY OF SOVIET
ARTISTS AND SUCCESS OF THEIR PERFORMANCES IN ATMOSPHERE
CONDUCTIVE TO SUCCESSFUL CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

2. SPECIFICALLY, LETTER INFORMS VORONTSOV THAT DEPARTMENT:
(1) WILL DESIGNATE ALL MEMBERS OF BOLSHOI THEATER TROUPES
AND SOVIETS CONNECTED WITH MOUNTING AND SHOWING OF EXHIBIT
AS OFFICIAL GUESTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PL 92-539; (2) IS IN
TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE
ORGANIZATIONS, EXPRESSING OUR INTEREST THAT PROPER TREAT-
MENT BE ACCORDED MEMBERS AND PROPERTIES OF BOLSHOI THEATER
AND SCYTHIAN EXHIBIT; (3) WILL SEND TWO DEPARTMENT SECURITY
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OFFICERS WITH BOLSHOI BALLET ON US TOUR TO COORDINATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS; (4) HAS TAKEN NECESSARY STEPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PL 89-259 TO EXEMPT OBJECTS IN SCYTHIAN EXHIBIT FROM JUDICIAL SEIZURE; AND (5) HAS CONVEYED TO METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND NYC AUTHORITIES OUR CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF OBJECTS AND WILL COOPERATE WITH THEM TO ENSURE THAT EVERY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION CONSISTENT WITH RELEVANT LAWS IS TAKEN TO ENSURE SAFETY OF EXHIBIT.

3. FYI. IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF THE STEPS MENTIONED IN ARMITAGE-VORONTSOV LETTER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN SENT LETTER MARCH 21 TO NYC MAYOR BEAME, INFORMING LATTER OF DEPT'S STRONG INTEREST IN TERMS OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS, IN HAVING BOLSHOI APPEARANCES AND SCYTHIAN EXHIBIT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT, AND REQUESTING BEAME TO SEEK COOPERATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. WE PLAN SEND SIMILAR LETTERS TO MAYORS OF OTHER CITIES WHERE BOLSHOI AND EXHIBIT WILL APPEAR. IN ADDITION, DEPT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH HUOK AND METROPOLITAN TO ENSURE COORDINATION OF SECURITY PROCEDURES AMONG LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE SPONSORS INVOLVED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM HUOK ORGANIZATION THAT THEY ARE ALSO IN TOUCH WITH SOVIETS ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR BOLSHOI.

4. RE IRS/HUOK TAX MATTER (MOSCOW 2089), IRS HAS DETERMINED THAT HUOK ORGANIZATION WILL NOT RPT NOT BE REQUIRED PAY 30 PER CENT TAX ON SOVIET PERFORMANCES. DEPARTMENT POUCHING COPY OF IRS LETTER TO EMBASSY FOR ITS INFO. KISSINGER

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